



**United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
District of Minnesota**

**B. Todd Jones,
United States Attorney**

**Jeanne F. Cooney
Director of Community Relations
(612) 664-5611
email: jeanne.cooney@usdoj.gov**

News Release

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Park Rapids man sentenced for defrauding mortgage company

A 37-year-old Park Rapids man was sentenced today in federal court for defrauding a mortgage company by conspiring to secure a \$640,000 mortgage under false pretenses. In Minneapolis, United States District Court Judge Ann D. Montgomery sentenced Eric Wayne Moen to 18 months in prison on one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud. Moen was indicted on August 20, 2009, and pleaded guilty on October 6, 2009.

In his plea agreement, Moen admitted that between August 1, 2005, and November 28, 2005, he participated in a scheme to defraud GreenPoint Mortgage. To further that scheme, Moen, who was then a licensed real estate agent, conspired with Kevin Ray Winkelmann, age 41, of Shorewood, to falsify a loan application to secure a home mortgage for Winkelmann. Specifically, the men generated and included in the loan application employment verification for Winkelmann, who, in fact, was not employed at the time. Then, based on that fraudulent application, GreenPoint Mortgage wired \$641,840.63 to a title company as part of the real estate closing process.

On March 3, 2009, Winkelmann was sentenced to six months in federal prison for his role in the mortgage fraud scheme.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation Division and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David M. Genrich.